



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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May 9, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TURMONT
HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS, INCORPORATED - TURMONT HOME FOR
GIRLS GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Turmont Home for Girls Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Turmont Home for Boys/Girls, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Turmont Home for Girls Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Turmont Home for Girls needs to provide children with clean pillows. The Group Home also needs to include all members of the treatment team in the development and update of Needs and Services Plans and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Ora Quaynor, Executive Director, Turmont Home for Boy/Girls, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Turmont Home For Boys/Girls Incorporated
Turmont Home for Girls Group Home
1519 East Thomas Drive
Lancaster, California 93535
Phone: (661) 948-2634
License Number: 197600325
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the pillows on the beds in bedrooms one and three are stained.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Turmont Home for Boys/Girls management maintain clean pillows for each bed.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

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Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals. However, the NSPs are not developed or updated by all members of the treatment team.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Turmont Home for Boys/Girls management include input from the placement worker, the staff, and the child in the development and update of the NSPs.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, children are not always provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

- 3. Turmont Home for Boys/Girls management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS

A HOME FOR CHILD NURTURE, CARE & DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTED TO AN EXCELLENT HOME ENVIRONMENT

March 1, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Dept. of Audit - Controller
ATTN: Carla Carr
500 W. Temple Street - Room 515-A
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

REF; **TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS**
1519 EAST Thomas Drive
Lancaster, Ca. 93535
License No. 197600325
Rate Level 8
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (GIRLS SITE)

1. FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Turmont Group Home will assure that regular routine maintenance is provided to all areas of the facility not limited to but including:

1. Turmont group home will replaced stained pillows in all bedrooms.

All needed repairs and maintenance will be immediately completed and maintained appropriately. The facility will also remain free of safety hazards at all times. The Facility Manager will do daily routine checks, and any concerns or problems will be documented and repaired, replaced or secured immediately.

The Administrator will be responsible for quality assurance and will perform daily periodic checks to assure the system is working and that a safe, secure and well maintained environment is provided at all times.

TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS

A HOME FOR CHILD NURTURE, CARE & DEVELOPMENT
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II. PROGRAM SERVICES

2. Turmont Group Home will assure that the Needs and Service plan will be Developed, with both the resident and his/her placement workers participation, and that this participation be documented for review. Residents at Turmont Group Home will meet on a weekly basis with our Therapist. Information obtained during these meetings will be used to determine the residents specific needs. Once the therapist feels he can make a reasonable and professional decision regarding the individualized treatment plan of each resident. The child's placement worker will be notified via telephone or monthly visit to discuss the child's current treatment status. Any information or recommendation from the CSW will be addressed at this time and implemented in the NSP. All treatment plans will be clearly defined and detailed with measurable achievable long and short-term goals. The needs of the child will be specific as to how they relate to the objective. All needs and service plans will be updated at least every three months; a copy of NSPs and quarterly reports will be mailed to the client's placement worker and maintained in the clients file.

Ora Quaynor, Administrator and Robbie Bennett, Facility Manager will assure that Treatment Services are provided according to the Program Statement that was Designed for Turmont Home for Girls.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

3. All residents will be given the required age appropriate minimum weekly allowance of \$5.00 (9-13 years) and \$7.00 (14-17 years), starting with the first full week of placement. This allowance may be increased beyond the base amount according to a point behavioral management system, which is currently in place.

The Administrator and Facility Manager will be responsible for monitoring the allowance behavior management system on a weekly basis and to make sure that the system is working properly. The Facility Manager will also monitor the progress of assuring that all residents receive encouragement and assistance in maintaining a photo/life book.


Ora Quaynor, Administrator